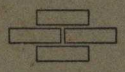
MID-WEST BRICK COMPANY



From
FABER-MUSSER CO.
PEORIA, ILL.

RISTOKRAT

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© Mid-West Brick Company—1931 Series A

RISTOKRAT Light Colored Face Brick enjoys unmatched appreciation among architects, contractors and owners for its unusual qualities of colorful beauty. Regarded as the most distinctive of all face brick, RISTOKRAT has achieved that recognition through unique shades—blends of permanent hue.

Since RISTOKRAT is made by one of the country's leading manufacturers of brick—with facilities and equipment second to none—its superiority is assured.

Consult your architect—ask him to tell you why RISTOKRAT enjoys a high standing in his profession. Accept his judgment as a measure of surety in your ultimate satisfaction.

MID-WEST BRICK COMPANY

OTTAWA, ILLINOIS

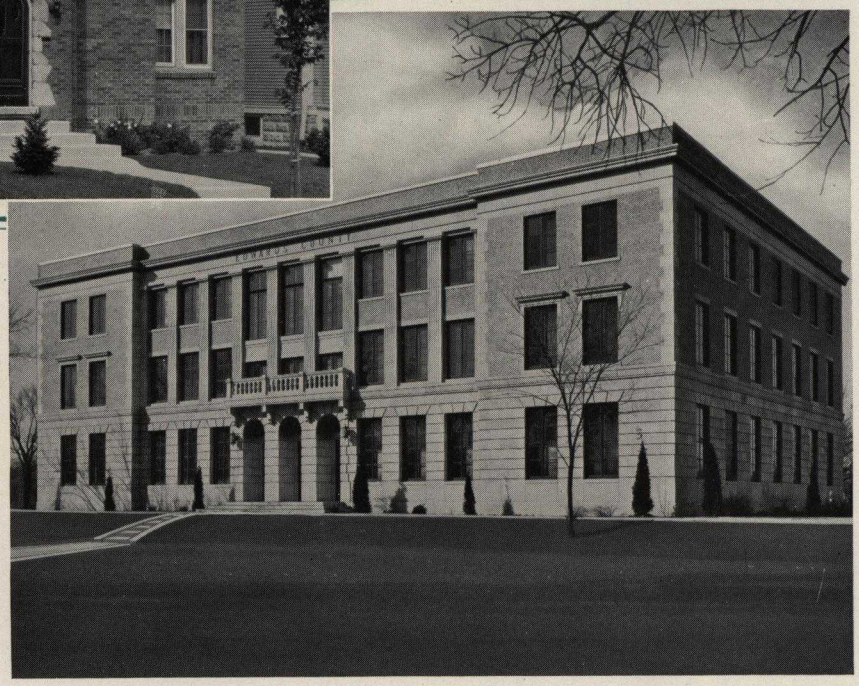
RISTOKRAT

THROUGHOUT this book we have endeavored to picture for you the advantages of using RISTOKRAT on any type of building construction. As wide a range as possible in both architecture and size has been included, to illustrate the unique advantages of quality and enduring attractiveness.

From small home to public institution and skyscraper, RISTOKRAT has been advantageously used as a means of expressing the ultimate in artistry.

It is significant that, when an architect or builder has seen a first project completed with RISTOKRAT, this most colorful face brick becomes the standard of comparison for future work. For the same reason, many architects specify RISTOKRAT to interpret in finished state their originality.

Residence
Milwaukee, Wis.



Court House
Kinsley, Kansas

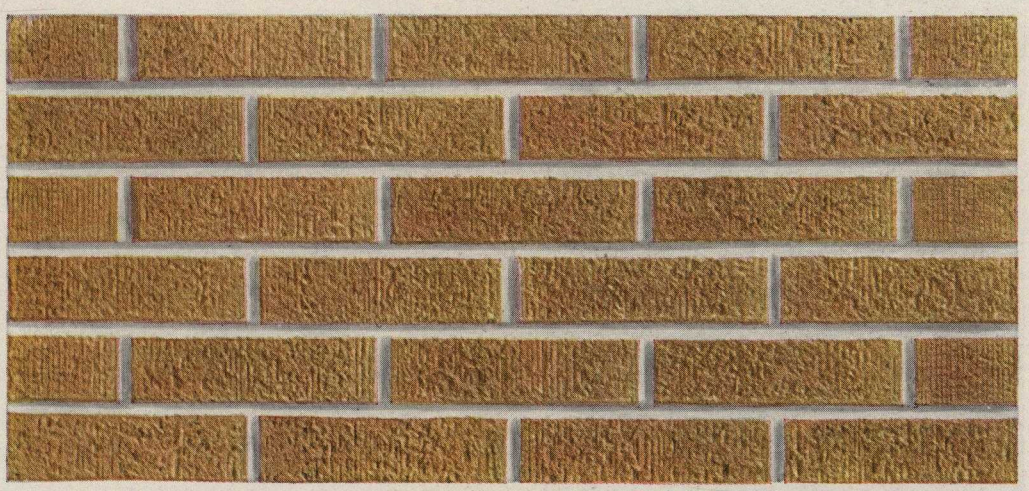
School
Pekin, Illinois

Apartment House
Chicago, Illinois

IT is surprising the range of effects made possible with the RISTOKRAT line. Your architect can, with the wide range of RISTOKRAT shades, interpret the color characteristics prior to the actual choice of brick.

The very essence of permanence and quiet dignity is reflected in one shade; another interprets the rich fullness of blending colors that mark the modern in residential structure.

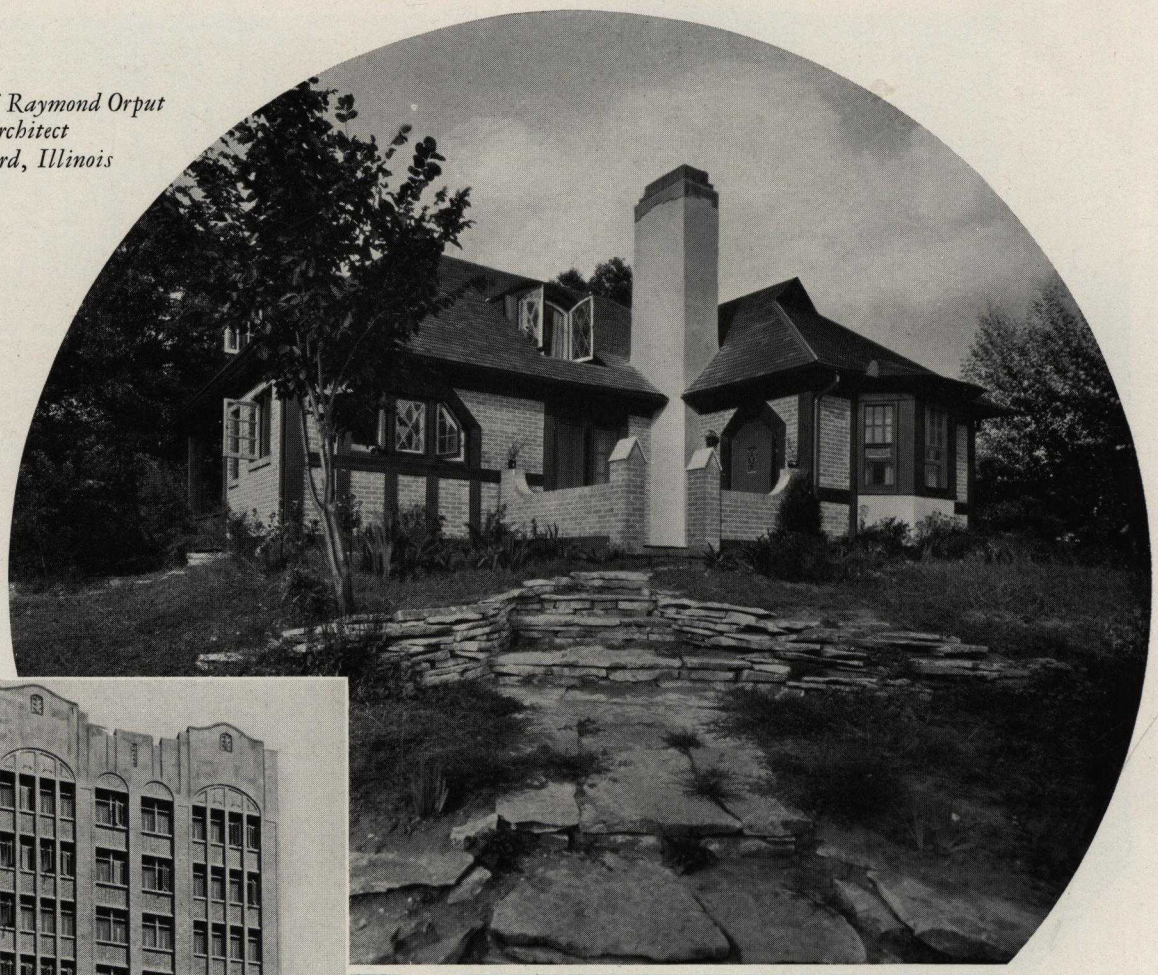
Apartment House
Chicago, Illinois



SHADE
720

The yellow rug is an outstanding member of the RISTOKRAT line—consequently exceedingly popular, because it is not "just like the house across the street." It is individual and, with either a natural mortar as shown, or in a dark mortar, lays up into a beautiful wall. It is served in an even shade.

Residence of Raymond Orput
Architect
Rockford, Illinois



Apartment House
Chicago, Illinois

SPECIFYING RISTOKRAT by your architect is synonymous with requesting the "best". How well we recognize and protect this standard is reflected in every phase of our effort.

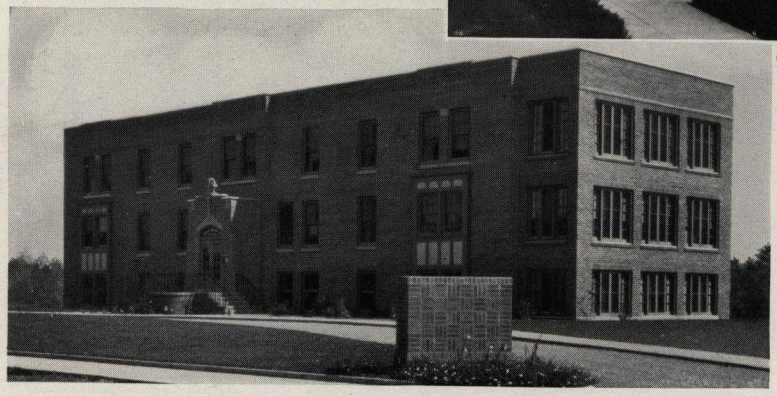
Scrupulous sorting and painstaking inspection assure the highest degree of uniformity. The care we exercise in grading and shipping is responsible for many of the comments attesting the satisfaction of architects, builders and owners.

Our pride in RISTOKRAT extends beyond point of order—to the structure that reflects our pride —and product.

RISTOKRAT stands alone in the appreciation of architects and builders as the outstanding face brick for interior trim. This is but logical to understand when considered that its colorful properties are in this usage shown to greatest advantage. Here, too, the absolute uniformity of RISTOKRAT in any shade assures incomparable finished effects.

Interior trim of face brick has long been regarded as ideal in its expression of beauty plus permanence. When RISTOKRAT is used for this purpose, the owner may be certain that the finest in material has been employed.

Apartment House
Oak Park, Ill.

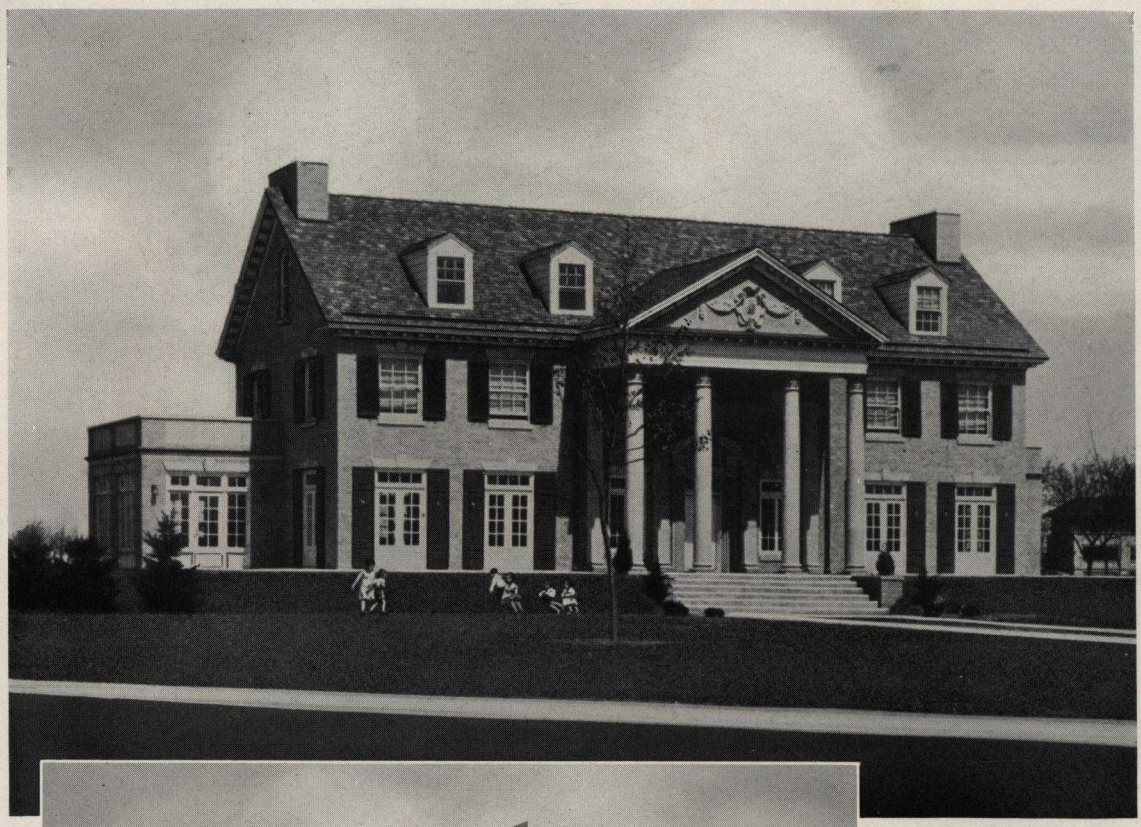


Hospital
Williston, N. D.

Residence
Rock Island, Ill.

SHADE
1000

The most distinguished member of the RISTOKRAT line is offered in this unsurpassed blend. The harmonious blending of selected grays, fawns, pinks, tans, yellows, browns and tangerines offers a mixture well in keeping with the uses of color in architecture. As shown the brick are laid in natural mortar with a flush joint.

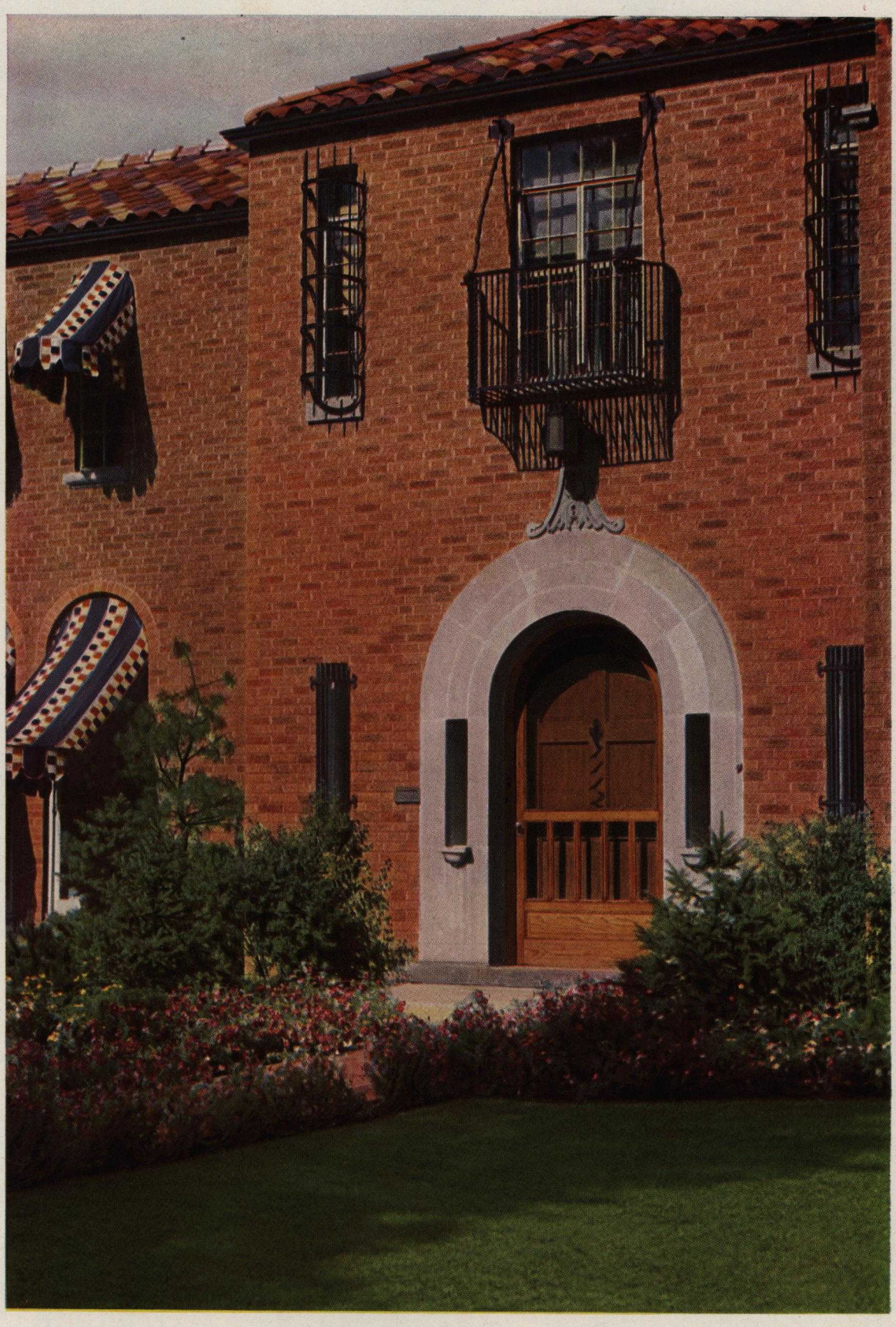


Children's Home
Mooseheart, Illinois

Garage
Joliet, Ill.

YOUR architect will tell you that good taste can be combined with economy—when RISTOKRAT is chosen to achieve results of outstanding and enduring beauty.

The tangible advantages of selecting RISTOKRAT are very evident when you see a project where this light colored face brick has been used. Literally it stands out from surrounding structures.



Residence
Milwaukee, Wis.

Church
Evanston, Ill.

RISTOKRAT has one very definite requisite that is keenly appreciated by architects.

It lends itself to blending with other types of building materials—on exteriors and interiors. This in itself is a test of the product, and finished results of numerous combinations have served to illustrate how aptly RISTOKRAT adds a final and positive touch of sheer beauty.

Apartment House
Chicago, Ill.

SHADE
600

From no other Middle Western source may these soft warm grays be obtained. They insure a home of beauty, that is distinctive, exclusive and in the best taste. The full range, or a light or dark range, is available. The same shades are offered in smooth or matt texture brick. Natural mortar with a flush joint is shown.

Residence
Milwaukee, Wis.

Post Office
Orlando, Florida

PROSPECTIVE builders are at times misled by the thought that achieving distinction in a structure entails undue effort—or payment of premium. This is not true. Your architect can tell you that forethought and planning make individuality possible.

The ultra attractive projects built with RISTOKRAT are legion—projects that would have been commonplace had commonplace material been used in their erection.

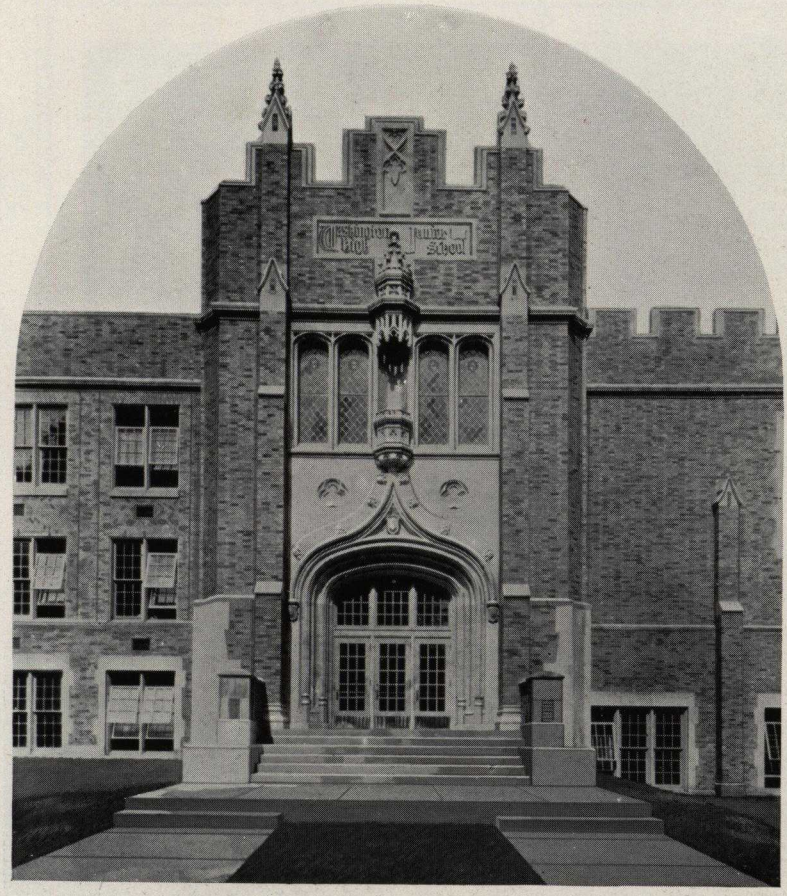
1857

RISTOKRAT shades are unusual—and unmatched in their skilful blending. Special processes have through necessity been developed and perfected to evolve them.

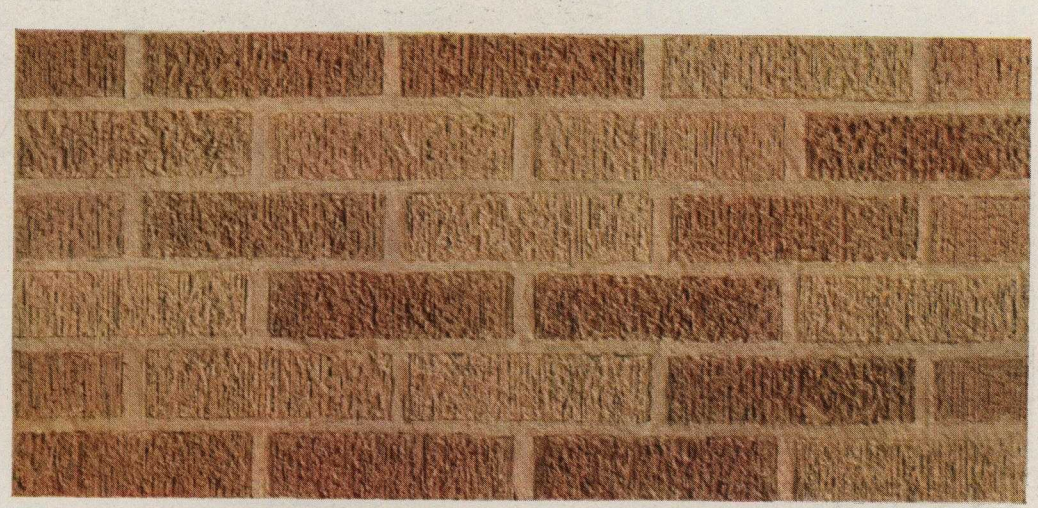
These phases of manufacture not only produced distinctive colorings—but also bettered an already outstanding quality. Thus we were doubly repaid in our successful efforts to produce the unusual as well as the enduring in face brick.

Residence
Rock Island, Ill.

Store Building
Moline, Illinois

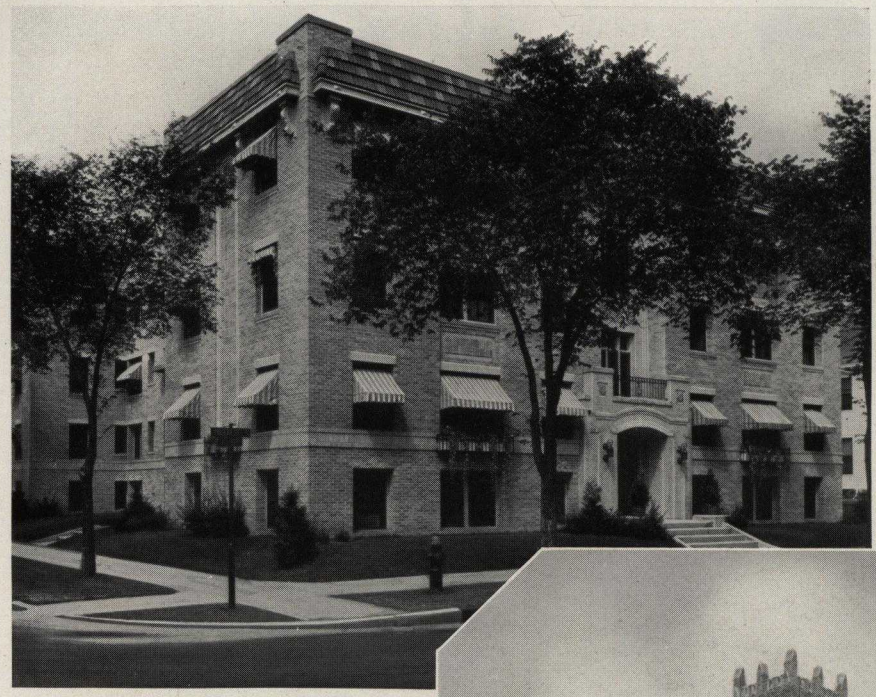


School
Pekin, Ill.



SHADE
700

In the soft shades of buff this is one of our most popular numbers. It is created by the careful blending of cream and yellow rugs. The inclusion of the distinctive yellow rug gives character and individuality of tone to the wall. As shown it is laid in a slightly raked joint with natural mortar.



Apartment House
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Church
Beloit, Wis.

Residence
Rock Island, Ill.

EXTREMES of architecture harmonize equally well with RISTOKRAT. There is no type or style whose desirable points are not emphasized with any of the RISTOKRAT shades.

There is no building that does not merit the superior worth and the additional distinction which will be RISTOKRAT's contribution. It will reflect the good judgment of its sponsor in every instance of use.

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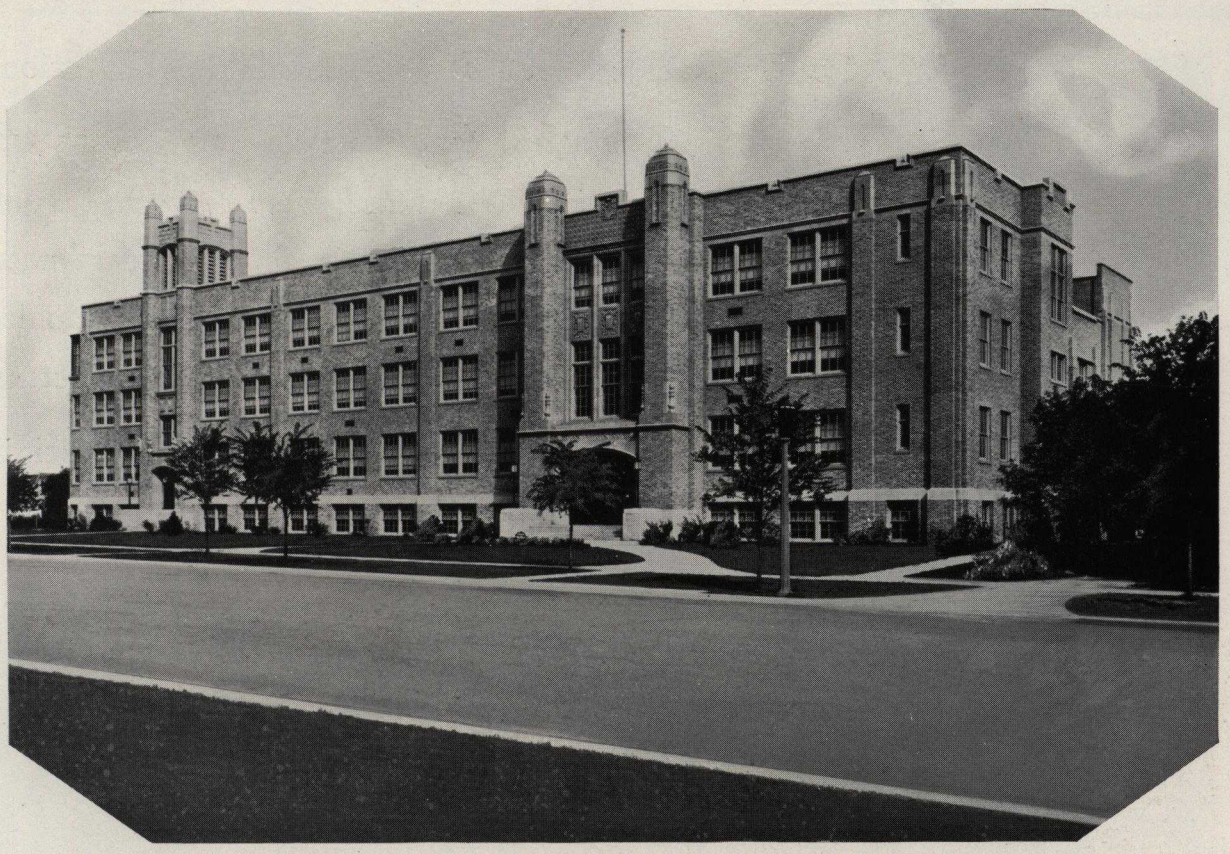
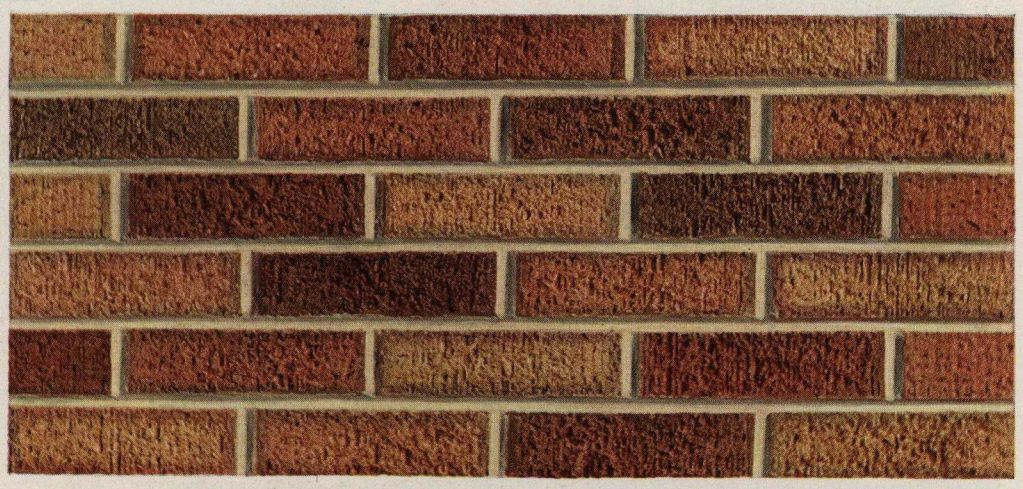
RISTOKRAT has a charm all its own—so distinctive and unique in its colorful beauty, that even an untrained eye can detect the difference between a building of this light colored fire clay and ordinary brick. Quite often architects emphasize the logic of a specification for RISTOKRAT by showing both types to a prospective builder. The contrast, so apparent, marks the value of trained advice.

Apartment House
Chicago, Illinois

Residence
Moline, Ill.



School—Milwaukee, Wis.



SHADE
750

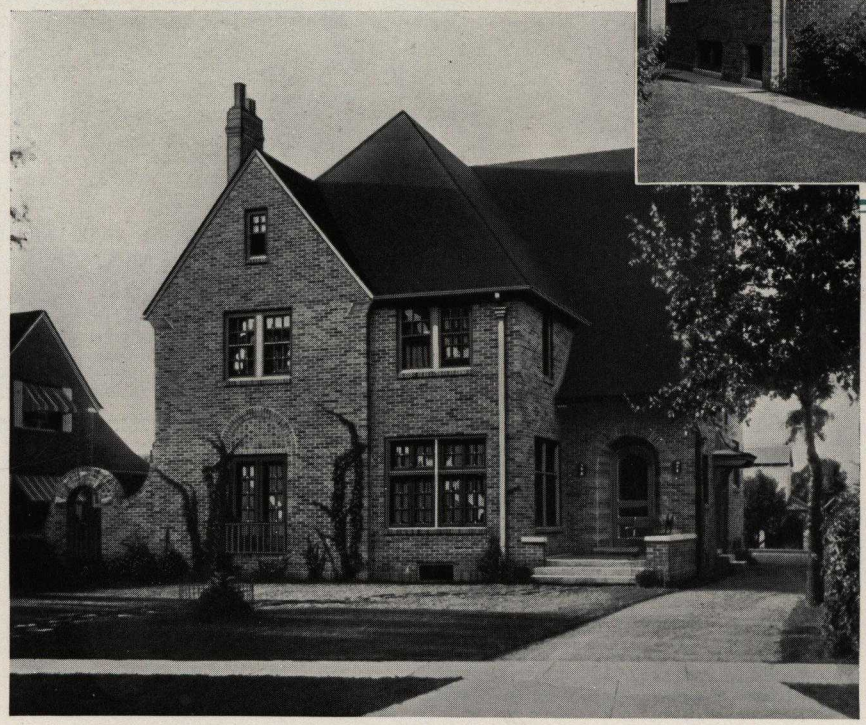
The use of only the purest fire clay produces the rich shades making up this blend. The colors are everlasting because they are burned into the brick. Rich browns, tangerines, fawns and pinks satisfy the vogue for color that is being followed among the better architects and builders. Buff mortar and tooled joint is employed in this panel.

UNUSUAL architecture—deviations from the conventions of usual type and style—is deserving of the unusual in face brick.

On numerous occasions when a structure was to be out of the ordinary, architects have unhesitatingly recommended RISTOKRAT, so that the building material would harmonize with the design of the completed appearance of the structure.

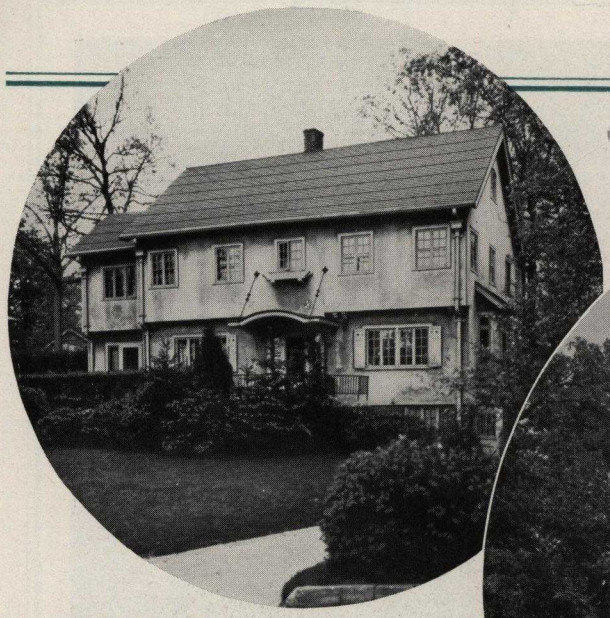
Builders, too, like to use RISTOKRAT—the careful sorting, grading and shipping assure a higher quality of workmanship—at considerably less effort in inspection "at the job."

Residence
Freeport, Ill.



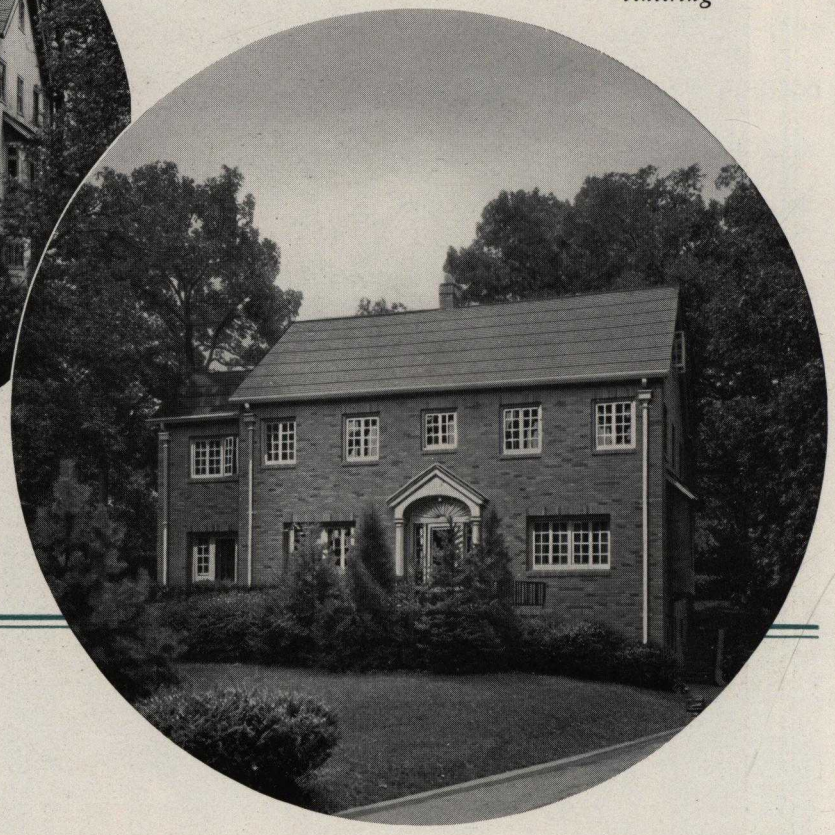
Residence
Oak Park, Ill.

1226



Residence
Des Moines, Iowa,
before veneering

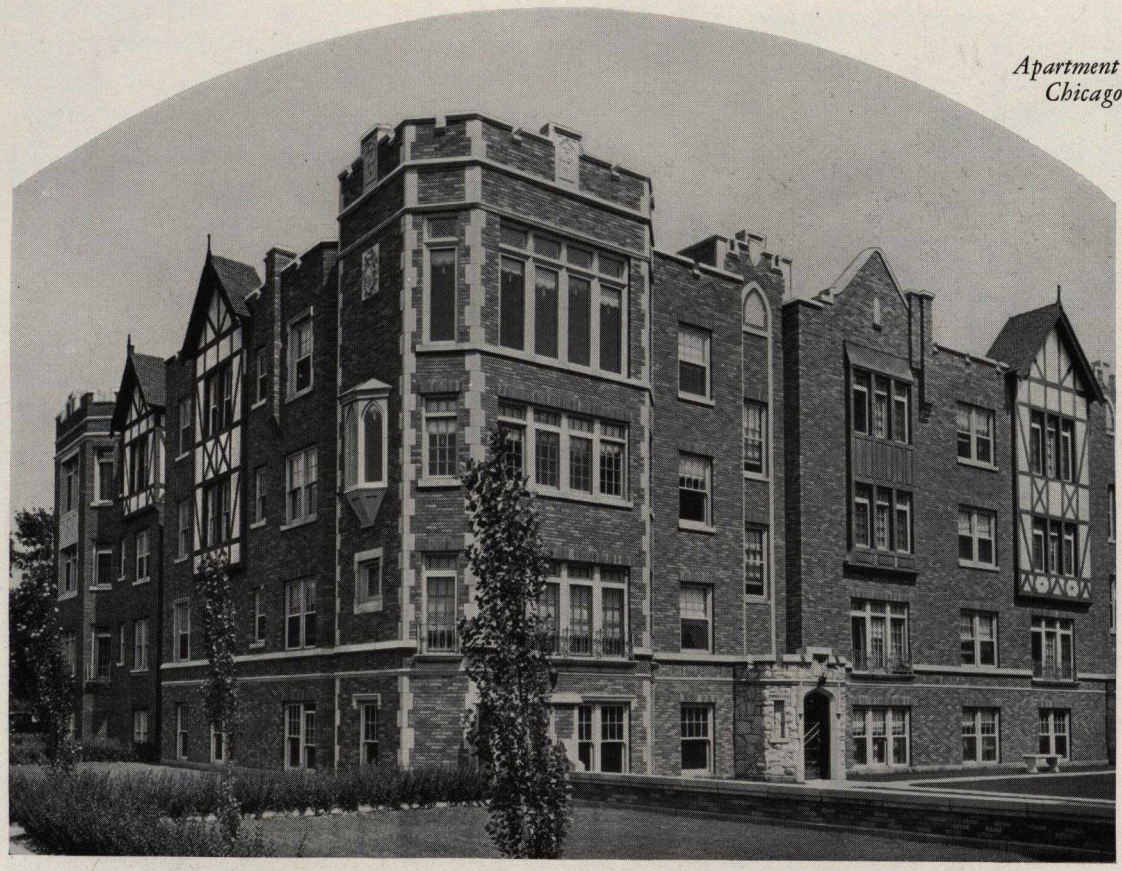
Same residence after veneering



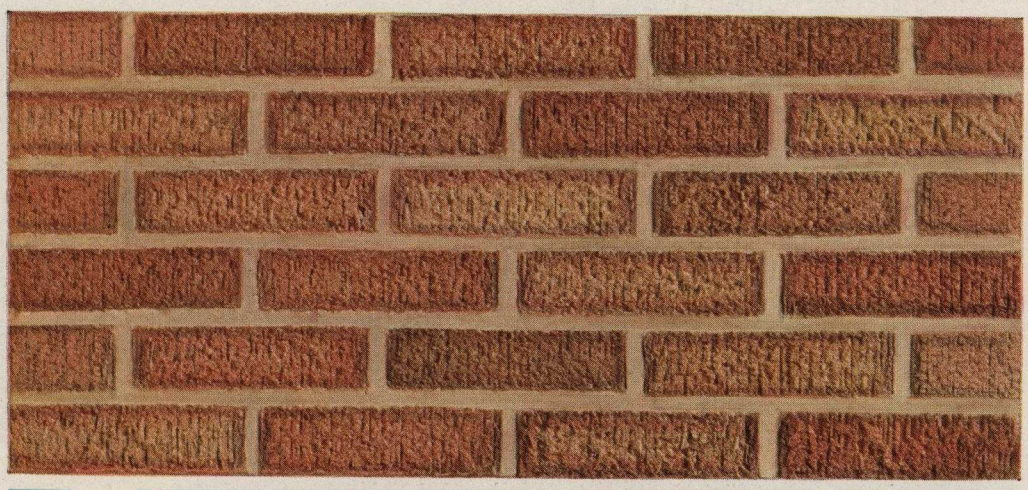
ON a great many occasions RISTOKRAT has been the selection in transposing frame structures and those of other materials to face brick. The colorful qualities of face brick are peculiarly adapted for this type of reconstruction. This is particularly true when it is utilized in conjunction with other architectural recommendations.

This page illustrates one such example. Smaller view shows a dwelling prior to RISTOKRAT "modernizing influence." Larger oval aptly illustrates how the same home was made pleasingly permanent—with RISTOKRAT.

Few owners of homes antiquated as to appearance realize that with relatively small expenditure amazing possibilities of change are easily possible. A short visit to an architect easily bears this out.



Apartment House
Chicago, Ill.



SHADE 755

Careful selection of the most delicate shades of pink and fawn buff is employed to create this beautiful blend. It offers an effect that may not be duplicated with any other face brick. It is shown laid with a buff joint in an ivory mortar. It is equally as pleasing in a natural or buff mortar.

Residence—River Forest, Ill.

Office Building
Kansas City, Mo.

RISTOKRAT is an unfailing selection of architects whose pride of achievement is measured only by final effects. Unsolicited comments on the excellence of RISTOKRAT have been pleasant recompense for our efforts to excel. We reproduce in part herewith a few such letters—typical of the many we have on file.

"It gives me pleasure to state that without an exception we have been very well pleased in every way with the various kinds of brick purchased from the Mid-West Brick Company. The bricks are good, hard, straight, true, not only as to size but shade as well, and further we have not had any trouble in laying them on account of holding their bed."

"During the past few years this company has had the contract on several structures on which your RISTOKRAT face brick were used. We take pleasure in making the statement that your product comes to us in such condition that our masonry work is allowed to progress in a rapid and efficient manner.

We find that your RISTOKRAT brick run true to the samples approved by the

architect; that your method of loading results in their arriving on the job so well shaded that no time is required for this work; your extreme care in packing practically eliminates chipping or breakage and consequently the delays ordinarily attendant upon the delivery of other products are practically non-existent with yours.

It is our pleasure to have your prospective customers visit any of our jobs and observe the conditions attendant to the building of a RISTOKRAT brick building."

"Specializing in the building of high-grade residences we naturally are particular in the selection of materials.

We have used RISTOKRAT Face Brick on several residences erected by us in Elmhurst and River Forest, Illinois, and assure you that we are well pleased with the results obtained."

"From among the many different types and manufacturers of face brick available to the architect and builder of the present day, we have had occasion to select the RISTOKRAT face brick and found that it more than fulfilled the expectancy of our clients as well as ourselves, enriching in color and texture the ideas created by us, and we are more than satisfied."

"During the past two years I have erected several brick homes in my community and have used for facing both shale and fire-clay face brick.

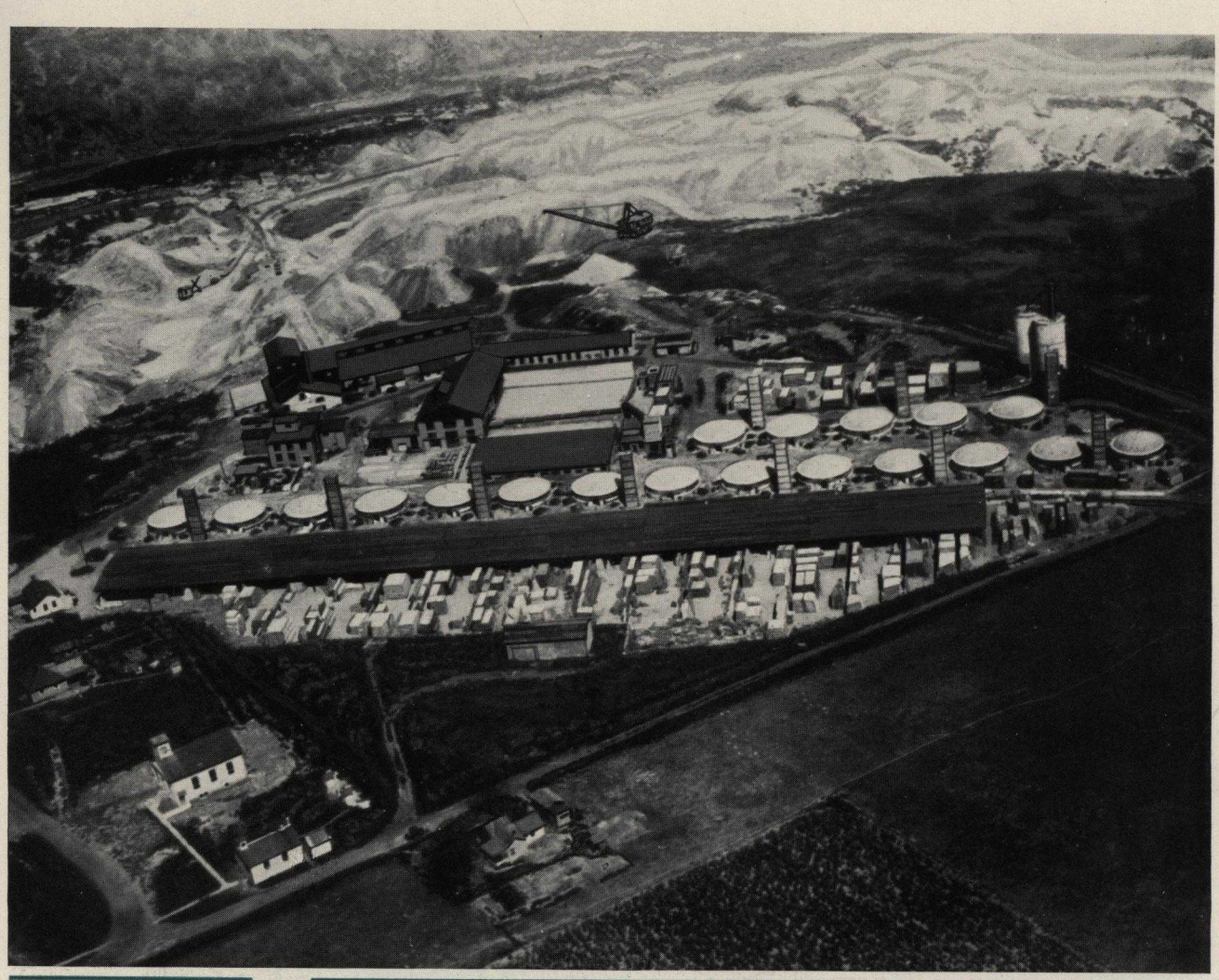
It has been my experience that the homes built of RISTOKRAT face brick sell more readily than other brick and I am very pleased to recommend them for this use."

Service Station
Eau Claire, Wis.

Builders and owners, as well as architects, fully appreciate the superiority of RISTOKRAT.

Owners of properties built of RISTOKRAT have learned this building material adds "plus" value paying definite dividends in resale.

Apartment House
Milwaukee, Wis.



Aeroplane View of Plant

CHANCE discovery of a true fire clay, many years ago by an itinerant potter, made possible the existence of the Mid-West Brick Company. The potter located at Lowell, Illinois, the site of his discovery, and through two generations the local pottery produced wares that had unusual shades of light colored hues.

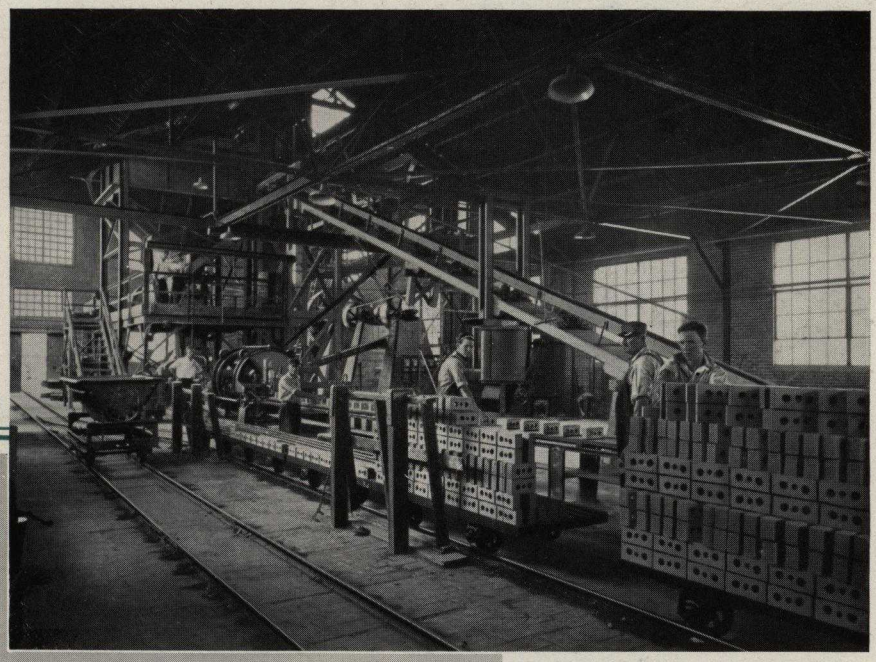
Officials of the firm now producing RISTOKRAT Face Brick learned of these unusual clay deposits. Investigation disclosed that for a large area this deposit lay beneath a stratum of coal, which in turn is beneath shale and overburden to the depth of fifteen feet.

The Mid-West Brick Company was formed—the entire property was located in their name, and adjacent to the ancient pottery there arose a huge modern property reputed to be one of the most modern and efficient brick plants in the country.

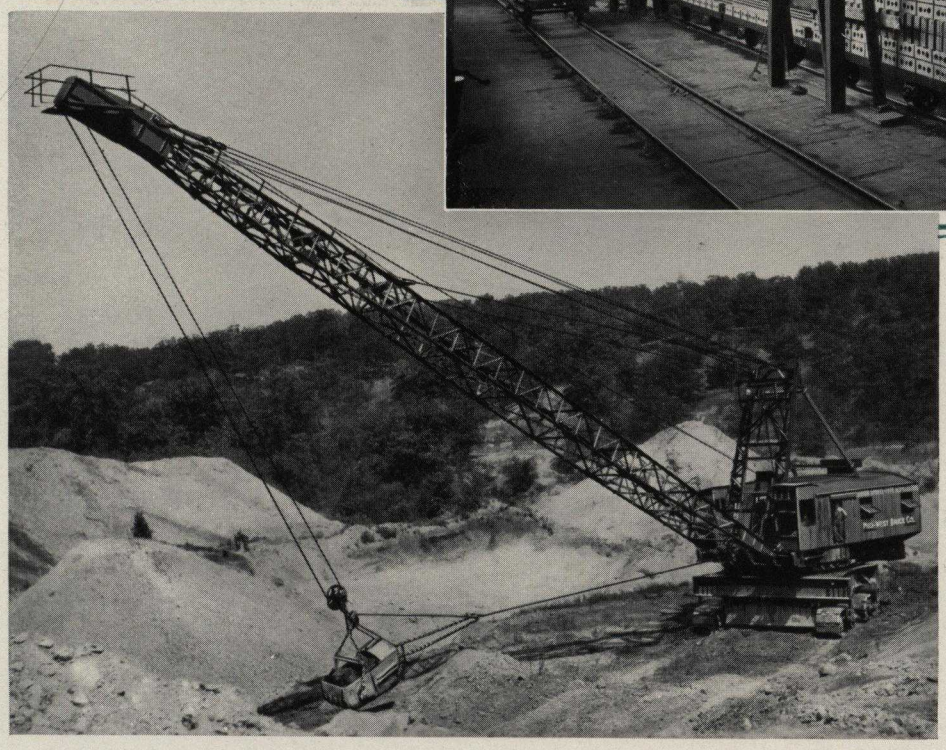
The most modern equipment available is employed to grind, screen and prepare the clay for the brick machine and a group of nineteen kilns receive the brick, and by an exclusive process of firing they are finished in colors not found in competitive lines.

After the brick have been burned they are then placed either in cars or in storage, which is beneath a steel shed, accommodating upwards of five million brick. This ample storage capacity makes possible having on hand enough brick of all various shades and textures to take care of the smallest or largest projects on instant demand. Further it assures the customer that the brick will be received in good condition.

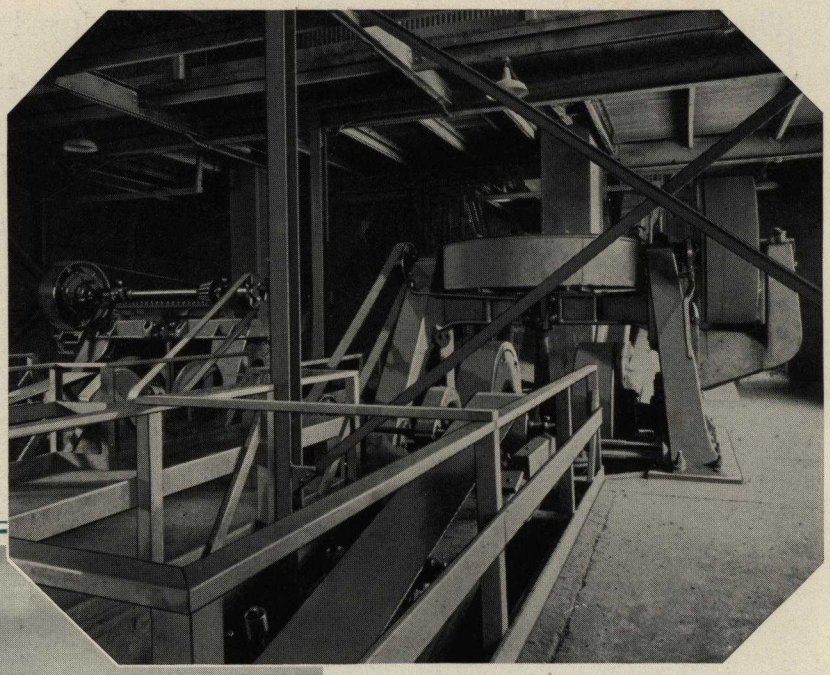
The Mid-West Brick Company has been in production for some few years during which time its product known to the trade as RISTOKRAT has been received by architects and contractors with instant favor, and has been quite generally specified by them whenever a quality fire-clay face brick was desired.



A continuous "ribbon" of clay is accurately moulded and cut by machinery

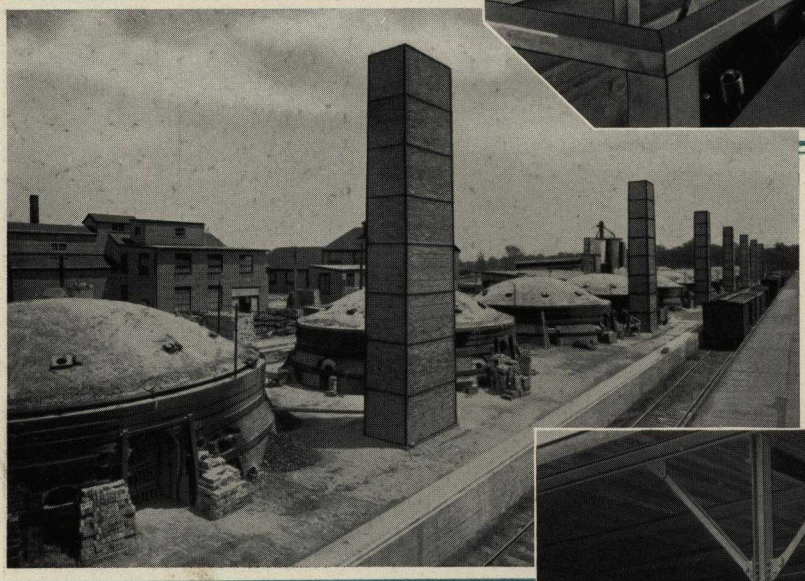


Removing overburden above clay



Grinding and Mixing the Clay

General View of Kilns in which brick are burned



How RISTOKRAT *Brick are stored preparatory to shipment*

This is best attested to by the fact that shipments have been made to such distant points as Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, North Dakota and Canada.

Such widespread acceptance of the product must be merited and is evidence of the superiority of RISTOKRAT fire-clay face brick, which leads the manufacturers to believe that their product is filling a long felt need in the building industry.

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